

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the September 26, 2013 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:05 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Gary W. Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, Gregory Odell, and Emma Rous. James C. Schubert was unable to be present. Also in attendance was Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, was unable to be present.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Cindy Chagnon led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bonnie Dunham thanked Board members for scheduling an evening hearing on October 24<sup>th</sup> regarding Ed 1200 Limiting the Use of Child Restraint Practices.

Doris Hohensee spoke of her concerns regarding transparency of the minutes, common core, six regional offices under the Division of Instruction, Smarter Balanced Assessment, and waiver concerns. She would like a list of the pilot schools from last year and a list of the field schools for this year.

**AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION**

A. Update on Charter Schools – Chairman Raffio said that four charter schools were recently approved. Commissioner Barry has approved requests for increased enrollment for Seacoast Charter School, Ledyard Charter School, and Polaris Charter School. In the future the State Board will be approving these requests.

B. Update on NH Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Waiver  
Deputy Commissioner Leather said that the Department is working with the Priority and Focus schools. Mr. Leather said that Commissioner Barry had recognized New Hampshire schools at a Rewards Press Conference at the Legislative Office Building on September 17. They included the Commissioner's Circle of Excellence Award, Blue Ribbon Schools Program, Reward Schools, and reducing the drop-out rate to zero.

C. Update on Manchester School District – Deputy Commissioner Leather said they have been meeting with the new Superintendent in Manchester and their leadership team. The Department will have information on class size in October. They are in the process of finalizing an agreement with the Manchester School District on the use of federal funds. Heather Gage and Superintendent Livingston attended a Turnaround Schools Conference this past week.

D. Update on Unity - Dr. Judith Fillion, Jeff Blaney, Middleton McGoodwin, Chip Baldwin, and Shawn Randall were present at the meeting. Mr. Blaney reported that the State Fire Marshal's Office was expecting a plan submittal on the prior day. At the close of business, the State Fire Marshall's Office had still not received a submittal. In addition, the architect will need to hire a Fire Protection Engineer to review and certify portions of the window installation detail. Mr. Randall indicated the final plan submittal will likely be submitted within a few days. He also reported that site work was nearly complete and paving would occur next week. Mr. Blaney also stated for the record that the Department could not issue the October School Building Aid payment because the district never completed the process for applying for building aid. Chairman Raffio made it clear that he wanted a representative from the District at every State Board meeting, except for the board retreat, until the new school is open. He also requested to be notified when the architect makes the final submittal to the State Fire Marshall's Office and would like a written response to his letter regarding the payment bond at the next board meeting.

E. Board Retreat – Chairman Raffio said the Board Retreat is scheduled for October 31 at Two Delta Dental. Topics so far are strategic plan for charter schools, minimum standards, common core, vision and goals of the Board, Manchester, CTE, and Special Education.

F. Minimum Standards Discussion – Paul Leather reported that there had been two public hearings held on the Minimum Standards. The working committee will continue to meet and revise the standards as they go forward. At the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in Merrimack David Ruff will go through the rules with Board discussion on each section and based on this discussion the final proposal will be ready for approval at the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in Merrimack will be devoted mostly to the minimum standards. Board members will still have a chance to revise these standards at the October 31<sup>st</sup> Board Retreat. It should go to JLCAR at their December meeting with the idea that the Board will adopt the Minimum Standards in January 2014. Board members want to be sure the proposed language and recommended changes go along with federal law. Paul Leather assured Board members that the Attorney General's Office is working with the Department regarding the standards meeting federal law. Mr. Odell asked, on behalf of the NH School Boards Association, if a survey has been done regarding the implementation of the cost for putting these standards into place at the schools and said there should be guidelines for minimum expectations on competencies. The next meeting of the working committee is scheduled for October 15 and the Chairman would like this package out as soon as possible and to also be put up on the website for people to review.

#### **AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. Commissioner's Amended Approval Designation for the Cross Road Kindergarten and School – Judy Fillion said the status of the Cross Road Kindergarten and School of Dover, reviewed by the Board at its August 2013 meeting, has changed. Administrative Rule Ed 400 requires non-public school officials to submit a request every five years to renew their schools' program approval status and every three years to renew their schools' attendance approval status. Since the August 2013 meeting, the Cross Road Kindergarten and School of Dover has reported that since it will no longer offer first grade, it will not seek Department approval. Approval of the Commissioner's Amended Approval Designation for the Cross Road Kindergarten and School updates the status of this school to Unapproved.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Amended Approval Designation showing the Cross Road Kindergarten and School as Unapproved.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Commissioner's Public School Approval Designation Report – Judy Fillion and Keith Burke met with the Board. Mr. Burke reported on the class size in Manchester and said that the Manchester School District has managed class size but it is still an issue at McLaughlin School. Ms. Honorow said she would like to see actual figures on paper regarding this because of the disagreement between the administration, parent groups, and citizens. Mr. Leather said we are in the process of getting the hard data but it would not be ready until October. Ms. Rous questioned that some school checklists had not been submitted. Ms. Honorow also questioned the reference to no fire inspections and some violations. Judy Fillion said that her Division follows up on this immediately. Judy Fillion said that a vote is needed by the Board to accept and approve the recommended designations for New Hampshire public schools. Some of these schools have an approval status expiring June 30, 2013. Rule Ed 306.28 requires superintendents to submit documentation of compliance with all applicable standards prior to their schools' approval expiration. Report designations include approved for a 5 year period with all standards met, conditional approved for up to three years, and unapproved. Gregory Odell said he should abstain from voting on this item as some of the schools in his district are on this list.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Public School Approval Designation Report for 2013.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by a 5 - 0 vote of the Board present, with Gregory Odell abstaining, and with the Chairman voting.

C. Public Hearing – Initial Proposal for Selected Sections of Ed 500, Ed 612, and Ed 614.14 – Chairman Raffio opened the hearing at 11:00 a.m. These rules identify the certification requirements for Beginning Educator, Experienced Educator, Intern License, Permission to Employ and In process of Certification, Career and Technical Education Teacher, Career and Technical Specialty Certification, Visual Arts Teacher, Elementary Mathematics Specialist for grades K-6, and Physical Science for grades 7-12, a subsection of Reading Writing Teacher and a subsection of Reading and Writing Specialist. It also identifies the requirements for teacher preparation programs for visual arts, elementary mathematics specialist for grades K-6 and Physical Science for grades 7-12. Most of these rules are being adopted again because they have expired. In doing a careful review, section by section, of the certification rules these sections expired before the review of the Professional Standards Board was completed. Four sections are being adopted for other reasons.

Ed 507.251, elementary mathematics specialist for grades K-6, is a new endorsement. Ed 507.51, and Ed 614.14, physical science for grades 7-12 are bringing back a certification that was repealed before 2008 and adding a teacher preparation program for that certification. These sections are endorsed by the Professional Standards Board. Ed 504.041, In Process of Certification, is a breakout of Ed 504.04, Permission to Employ. It adds clarifying language for the applicant who is employed while in process of certification. Ed 507.12, Reading and Writing Specialist; Ed 507.28, Middle Level Science Teacher and Ed 507.29, Science Teacher, General Requirements and 507.50 Reading and Writing Teacher are being changed to be consistent with other rules in this filing. There was no one testifying at this hearing. Chairman Raffio closed the hearing at 11:20 a.m.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

There was no New Department Business.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

There was no Rulemaking at this meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS**

A. Priorities of State Board – Chairman Raffio said that the Business and Education Coalition met on September 20 with about thirty people attending. Senator Kelly and Senator Stiles attended this meeting. There was discussion on STEM initiatives. Mr. Groleau said there is progress in various stages of development.

Mr. Groleau said that next week is Manufacturing Week to raise awareness about New Hampshire's manufacturing industry and its need for skilled workers. New Hampshire joined 36 other states to mark National Manufacturing Day. More than 50 companies, schools and technical centers across the state will open their doors to high school students and others interested in manufacturing careers. On October 11<sup>th</sup> the Governor's Summit on Advanced Manufacturing and High Technology will be held in Manchester.

Cindy Chagnon said that there would be an announcement for the next Teacher of The Year.

Chairman Raffio said that for the October 24<sup>th</sup> evening hearing at the Department he, Gregory Odell, Gary Groleau, Cindy Chagnon, and Emma Rous would be attending.

Chairman Raffio said that there was an event at Saint Anselm College on Common Core Standards and Department staff chose not to be in the audience given the negative perspective of the conference. Chairman Raffio said that businesses need to get behind these standards and support the Common Core Standards. There was an article in the Concord Monitor (last Sunday) on these standards, was well written and explained these standards.

Chairman Raffio said that Rep. Mary Gile from the House Education Committee would be hosting a panel discussion on common core standards on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

B. Education Reform

**AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Paul Leather reported that the Department has received notice of a grant regarding mental health in the schools and we will have pilot sites around the state. We will be working with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Leather said that Commissioner Barry is very involved with early childhood education and is working closely with the Governor's Office and the Department of Health and Human Services seeking an early childhood grant.

Mr. Leather said that there is a district level grant being submitted for Race to the Top by the Nashua School District. Nashua was high on the list the last round.

Deputy Leather said that the Commissioner is currently meeting with the five regions of superintendents around the state on topics set by the regional groups.

Mr. Leather said that the period for filing legislation is currently open. There are a few bills being considered at this time. They are four years of math in high schools with math strongly embedded in the courses. The New Hampshire Science Teachers Association is currently reviewing the science standards and they need to get other different groups together to discuss these standards. Ms. Rous asked if the science frameworks are in place and are they aligned with the current state assessment. There is discussion regarding charter school legislation – there are three bills currently under study. There may be a bill in the next session regarding funding.

There was discussion on the Next Generation Science Standards. Mr. Leather said these were worked on by national groups, science researchers, other scientists, and educators in science and that only six or seven states have adopted these.

#### **AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business at this meeting

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. Minutes of August 19, 2013 Meeting**

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to approve the Minutes of August 19, 2013.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

##### **B. Minutes of September 9, 2013 Meeting**

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2013 meeting.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

##### **C. Appointment to Home Education Advisory Council – David Menard**

The Department is requesting the Board approve the nomination of David Menard to serve on the Home Education Advisory Council for a three-year term. David Menard will replace Michael Benik. Mr. Menard will represent the Christian Home Educators of New Hampshire. In accordance with RSA 193-A:10, members of the Home Education Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Education based upon nominations submitted by the various organizations represented on the Council.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approves the nomination of David Menard to serve on the Home Education Advisory Council for a three-year term.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. TABLED ITEMS**

- A. Student/Con-Val School Board – SB-FY-13-04-008

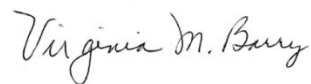
**AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session at this meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.



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Secretary